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SMALL BUT PATRIOTIC.
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THE FIRST TURN ON THE APPARATUS AT SEWARD PARK.
OPENING DAY AT SEWARD PARK UNDER O. R. L.

The Playground

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INTRODUCTION.

WERE any proof necessary to establish the value of the playground as a factor in the life of the child in New York City and the justness of its claim upon the community, it would be found in the change of public attitude which has occurred since the pioneer days of the early nineties.

Not only has its value been recognized, and its necessity acknowledged, but so completely is such the case that it is most difficult to appreciate the hostility of many, and the apathy of many more, against which the early workers had to contend, and which raise their success against odds into the realm of noteworthy achievements.

Play did not originate in New York, nor did the playground. Play is as old as the human race, but the playground is distinctly a modern and recent development.

The Stadium of the Greeks was not a playground in the modern sense, nor was the mediaeval tourney field, nor

the bowling greens of the old world or of early New York. On them all the play spirit found its outlet, but to claim for the playground a lineal descent from them is to misunderstand the significance of the modern movement altogether.

The play element is or should be universal and eternal in mankind—in whatever form it may manifest itself, and did this element find a free and ready opportunity for expression, the modern playground would be unknown.

But the development of the city, and the present industrial system, have inevitably changed conditions, and in the present organization of society the play spirit is not universal nor does it promise to be eternal.

Unless provision is made in its earliest days by those who foresee the needs of future generations, and a plan of growth predestined, a city does not automatically develop recreation spots and open places for play.

All the parks of New York, large and

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small, which make the city's life endurable have come as the result of agitation, effort and of much expense.

One function, therefore, of the playground movement is to provide a place for play—a function whose operation increases in difficulty with the size of the city.

A second function, and more important one, is to give to girls and boys an intimate contact with a personality which makes for good.

The modern social structure gives the least possible contact between parent and children, and the greatest freedom to those not ready to exercise it. The tendency to rowdiness and crime is a matter of concern to those who think, and the beneficial effect of introducing the playground is a matter of common observation.

In its second function, the playground fills a universal need, regardless of the size of the city—more important, indeed, in country or small town, by reason of the fewer interests.

To New York City the general movement owes much in the victory which established the playground as a municipal necessity, but to other cities, Washington, Pittsburgh, Boston, Chicago, Newark and many others the movement must look for its inspiration in securing supervision and personal leadership.

LANDMARKS ON THE WAY TOWARD MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS.

THE years 1887-1897 were critical ones in the history of the small park and playground in New York City. All the forces that make for better things in the community were lined up during that time in a fight on behalf of an idea. The length and bitterness of the struggle is a matter of wonderment, equalled only by the wonderment and admiration for the obstin-

acy of purpose and enthusiasm by which the final victory was obtained.

The idea was a simple one, and one upon which apparently there could be but one opinion, and consequently no opposition—to provide breathing places for the people and playgrounds for the children in the wilderness of lower New York.

The provision for such obvious necessities of life was recognized a municipal duty, and the struggle was aroused in the effort to have that duty performed. There were many people interested in the movement from many reasons, and there were many phases of the fight. With some the word "playground" was not mentioned, being assumed as necessary corollary to a larger proposition of securing small parks. With others, the playground was the main proposition, and their interest shown primarily in its practical and moral value.

To name all those who were interested in the contest, or the organizations which took part in some phase or another, would be to call the roll of the disinterested and active citizens, and of the leading civic, social and professional organizations of the city. Each contributed to the final successful outcome.

It is neither possible nor necessary to give at this time an adequate understanding of the conditions existing in New York during those years. The reports of the Tenement House Committees, of various civic organizations and committees, "How the Other Half Lives," the "Battle with the Slums" are needed to do that.

For the workers and their methods it is enough to say that nothing new can be added on the subject of playgrounds and their necessity. The methods employed, the matter prepared, the arguments advanced, exhausted the topic, and there remains but the necessity to

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keep alive the sentiment then created, until the city is supplied with play space and small parks in proportion to its needs.

The most significant dates in the long campaign are as follows.

1884.—Tenement House Committee appointed.

1885.—Tenement House Committee Report recommending a park at Mulberry Bend.

1887.—Small Parks Act (Chapter 320 "Laws of '87"). (Abram S. Hewitt.)

Proceedings begun against Mulberry Bend.

1888.—Act for incorporating societies for providing parks and playgrounds for children. (Samuel Bowne Duryea.)

1889.—(Brooklyn) Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds organized. (Samuel Bowne Duryea.)

1891.—Incorporation of New York Society for Parks and Playgrounds. (Charles B. Stover.)

1892.—Report of Committee appointed by Supreme Court to determine assessments on Mulberry Bend.

1894.—Vacation Schools opened under Association for Improving Conditions of the Poor.

1895.—Tenement House Report, R. W. Gilder, Chairman. (Two small parks below 14th Street.)

LAWS OF STATE OF NEW YORK.

April 17, 1895.

"Section 1. Hereafter no school house shall be constructed in the City of New York without an open-air playground attached to or used in connection with the same.

2. This act shall take effect immediately." (JACOB RIIS.)

1896.—Committee of Seventy. Report of Sub-Committee on Parks. Mulberry Bend finished.

Formation of Playgrounds Association of Staten Island. (C. O. S.)

1897.—Small Parks Committee appointed by Mayor Strong. (Abram S. Hewitt.)

Mulberry Bend Park dedicated June 15, 1897. (Jacob A. Riis.)

1898.—Organization of Outdoor Recreation League. (Charles B. Stover.)

First playground work undertaken under Board of Education. (Seth Thayer Stewart.)

1899.—June 3—Seward Park opened for play under auspices of Outdoor Recreation League.

1900.—Hamilton Fish Park turned over to city.

Plans submitted for Seward Park by Outdoor Recreation League.

1901.—Report of New York State Tenement House Committee. (Robt. W. De Forest and Lawrence Veiller.)

1903.—Seward Park opened as a playground by the Park Department.

In an article in *Charities*, February 7, 1903, at the time when Seward Park was about to be opened to the public by the city, and when the work of Mayor Low and Commissioner Willcox promised much for the future, Mr. Charles B. Stover says, "I believe that never again will the Park Department deny to the children their right to play under right conditions in the public parks. In a few years park playgrounds will dot New York." There are now eleven playgrounds under the Park Department, and three more awaiting funds to be developed.

It is a great result of a great fight, but in remembering that New York has over 600,000 children to care for, it may be realized that only a start has been made toward the goal of which Mr. Stover

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dreamed and toward which he led the way.

Chapter 320 of the Laws of 1887 gave to the Board of Street Opening and Improvement power to "select, locate, and lay out so many public parks in the City of New York south of One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Street as the Board might from time to time determine."

The apathy of the authorities regarding playgrounds made necessary ten years later the following statement from Abram S. Hewitt in the report of the Small Parks Committee of 1897:

"In this connection it is well to state that under the Park Act of 1887 it was assumed that playgrounds would be an essential part of every open space thus appropriated for public use. It seems, however, authorities of the Park Department entertain doubts as to whether the terms of the act are sufficiently clear to allow them to establish playgrounds in any of these parks.

"The chairman under whose personal supervision the act was drawn is able to declare that the playground was assumed to be an essential part of the park, and the law should be amended as to *require* playgrounds to be made part of a park."

EARLY DAYS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION LEAGUE.

IN 1891, under the leadership of Charles B. Stover, the New York Society for Parks and Playgrounds was incorporated with Abram S. Hewitt as President, DeWitt J. Seligman, Secretary, William Rhinelanders Stewart, Treasurer.

So little was the nature of the work understood for which the society was organized that a most important part of its early activities consisted in an educational campaign on play.

Mr. Walter Vrooman organized parades of mothers and babies, planned

public meetings, demonstrating from the platform the use of the see-saw, and devised other inspirational features.

In the spring of 1891, on land belonging to Mr. Stewart, at Second Avenue, between Ninety-first and Ninety-second Streets, a playground was opened with fair equipment, but with an overseer rather than the play organizer, as was later proved so necessary. Money was raised by appeals, many meetings to plan the work financial and otherwise being held at the office of Mr. Woodbury Langdon. For three years this ground was successfully maintained.

The sentiment in favor of the work steadily grew, independent organizations like the Henry Street Settlement and the College Settlement established grounds in connection with their own work, more and more of the educational element being maintained.

In 1897 an effort was made to turn over the first playground to the city. From this agitation, East Side Park was ultimately established, as well as the principle also that it was the city's function to take up the work.

In 1898 a conference was held between representatives of the Athletic Associations of New York and the sub-committee on Parks and Playgrounds of the Social Reform Club, as an outgrowth of which the Outdoor Recreation League was formed. The early meetings for preparing plans were held at the residence of Miss Winifred Bucks (now Mrs. Lawrence Abbott).

The vigor of the new body, representing the intensity of feeling of the time and proving the thoroughness with which the early workers had prepared the way for action, is shown in its immediate and effective work.

A new ground was started on the site of the DeWitt Clinton Park, selected by Miss Green, of Hartley House, and opened with ceremony, August 23, 1898,

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on the day the victorious fleet sailed up the Hudson River. It is here that the record fence was built, which stood intact during four elections, while other fences were falling on every hand round about.

The same year the League began its efforts on behalf of Seward Park. It was around this site that the organization fought its hardest battle and won, by its courage and persistency, for itself and the Park, a reputation enduring throughout the country, and serving as an inspiration to all interested in the cause of civic welfare.

In 1895 the Tenement House Committee (Mr. R. W. Gilder, chairman), made its report, and the passage of a law was secured for two small parks to be finished in part as public playgrounds, and work to be begun within three years of the enactment.

The site of Seward Park was selected at the suggestion of the settlements of the neighborhood by reason of the wretched houses thereabouts and the fact that in their midst a beginning for civic improvement had been made by the location of the fountain given by Mr. Jacob Schiff.

The buildings were torn down, but nothing more done. A huge ghastly hole, with sewage pipes exposed, children playing in the filth, lay until the Commissioner of Health was induced to report its condition as a menace to health, and to demand that it be filled in.

His demand was granted in 1898, but nine months must needs elapse before the slow-moving contractor had finished his job. The Outdoor Recreation League had helped in this first stage. In April, 1899, it was permitted to enter in, under carefully stated conditions regarding care and responsibility, and on June 3, 1899, the park, equipped with playground, was thrown open to the public amid scenes of extraordinary enthusiasm.

The greatest interest was shown in the movement by the residents of the East Side. Penny subscriptions were raised by the children enthusiastically, with results published day by day in the Yiddish papers, while the settlements and others made gifts of flower boxes and furthered the cause in every possible way.

In February, 1900, the O. R. L. submitted plans for the development of the park as a playground, but in October of the same year the Park Department presented a plan in which no mention was made of a playground, but, instead, the ground was to be in "natural style with lawns and flowers." Objection was raised by the O. R. L.

In December the Department submitted a second plan, in which a playground was set aside 20x75 feet. Another objection was raised by the O. R. L. with equal promptness.

In the summer of 1901 a third plan was proposed, which met the approval of the League, providing Norfolk and Division Streets were closed, thus giving an increased area to the ground.

By dint of strenuous work the streets were ordered closed, and in the fall of 1901 the final plans were ready. Technicalities prevented the signature of Mayor Van Wyck, but among the first acts of Mayor Low and his Park Commissioner, William R. Willcox, was the giving of necessary orders to further the park. At last, in February, 1902, the League was able to withdraw, knowing that the city would care for the playground interest.

In 1898 the playground work was introduced into the public schools. Besides its own ground, and the interest in Seward Park, the O. R. L. had been of such assistance in organizing the school work, that two separate acknowledgments are made by Seth Thayer Stewart, Chairman of the Committee, in his report on the Vacation Schools and Playgrounds in 1898, as follows:

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"The Committee on Special Schools had been in communication with the Outdoor Recreation League, which was largely interested in promoting the work and which had made many valuable suggestions."

"The Outdoor Recreation League took a very considerable interest in not only having the work of the playgrounds undertaken by the School Board, but in making suggestions for the organization and administration of the work. Their influence and suggestions were valuable."

"With the view of securing the co-operation of as many citizens as possible, who are interested in the work, the following named members of the O. R. L. were appointed official visitors:

Mrs. Clarence Burns,
Miss Helen Green,
Miss Mary M. Kingsbury,
Mr. C. C. Hughes,
Miss Carlotta R. Lowell,
Mr. J. K. Paulding,
Mr. Otto Pullich,
Dr. E. Richard,
Mr. H. Siebert,
Mr. Charles B. Stover,
Miss Lillian D. Wald,
Mr. C. H. Warner."

The O. R. L. maintained a third ground at Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Streets and Second Avenue, which Mrs. Joseph M. Price managed, and for whose maintenance Mrs. Sylvan Bier contributed for several years.

The fourth ground conducted by the League was at Kip's Bay District on ground loaned for the purpose by Mrs. Lee (Miss Laura Billings) adjacent to St. Gabriel's Park.

While there were many forces at work during those years, the Tenement House Committee, Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, Mayor's Small Park Committee, Report on Baths (made by the Social Service League), all of which helped the successful outcome, yet it was the

O. R. L. which stood for the aggressive insistence of the Playground Idea.

And while there were many people interested in the work of that association, who helped in its final success, yet it was Mr. Charles B. Stover who inspired the aggressive, effective policy of the League, a man who would be the last to take for himself claim for any credit whatsoever and the first to whom his co-workers would ascribe much.

THE BROOKLYN WORK.

TO Brooklyn the credit is due for securing the first state legislation for furthering the cause of playgrounds—and to Mr. Samuel Bowne Duryea is due the credit for securing to Brooklyn this honor.

In 1888, from his initiative and his efforts, an act was passed at Albany "for the incorporation of societies for providing parks and playgrounds for children in the cities, towns and villages of this state."

In 1889 the "Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds," the first society of its kind in the State of New York, was organized under this act, with Mr. Samuel Bowne Duryea as President.

Among its officers and early members were: Tunis G. Bergen, E. O. Ball, Oliver J. Wells, Charles N. Chadwick, Truman J. Backus, Franklin W. Hooper, Alexander E. Orr, S. Fleet Speir, M.D., James McKeen, Alfred C. Barnes, Darwin R. James, William C. Bryant, W. Hamilton Gibson, Almon Gunnison, David H. Houghtaling, Isaac H. Cary, H. Battermann, Samuel McLean.

Notes in the records of that organization show that Mr. Duryea had an unusual appreciation of the nature of playground work and recognized it as one of the city's necessities.

Such questions as the selecting of desirable sites, and the best manner of

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Two Early Playgrounds: Henry Street Settlement, 1895—Union Settlement, 1899.

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providing funds, both private and municipal, were leading ones at the time of his death in 1892.

The activity of the Society was temporarily suspended when the active leader was taken away; but the work inaugurated by Mr. Duryea and fostered by his eager interest, has become a question of vital and of national importance.

In 1897, quite independently of the Brooklyn Society of Parks and Playgrounds, Mr. Gaylord S. White secured permission to establish and maintain a playground in City Park, whose success was pronounced.

In 1898 a combination was effected of the work of Mr. White with that of the Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds, with Mr. White as President; Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, Vice-President, and associated with them Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, Frank L. B. Abbott, Fraser M. Moffat, E. O. Ball, with Chas. H. Edgar, Secretary, and A. A. Bedford, Treasurer.

Three playgrounds were conducted, with a total attendance of 81,000, and the active work of the Brooklyn Society inaugurated. Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen has continued until 1908 to give much thought and untiring care to the supervision of the work of the Society.

In the spring of 1908, the officers of the "Brooklyn Society for the Parks and Playgrounds for Children," namely, Fraser M. Moffat, President; Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, Vice-President; Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, Treasurer, and Mr. William H. Childs, George D. Pratt, Judge Robert J. Wilkin and Dr. Dudley D. Roberts, voted to form a coalition with a new association, called the "Parks and Playgrounds Association of the City of New York," and have recommended to their generous contributors of the past the new association as their logical successors and with plans for identically the same work.

THE playground activities of New York City are at present represented by three groups:

1. School Department.
2. Park Department.
3. Independent organizations—Parks and Playgrounds Association, Churches, Settlements.

While related activities are found in:

1. Public Schools Athletic League.
2. International Children's School Farm League.
3. Dock Department (recreation piers).
4. Public Buildings (baths).
5. Park Department.

THE RECREATION AND VACATION WORK OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

IN Greater New York there are 475 schools, with 613,029 registered attendants.

The Board of Education, of which Egerton L. Winthrop is president, is made up of 46 members. Of these, there is a committee of seven on special schools, of which Louis Haupt, M.D., is chairman. There is a City Superintendent of Schools—William H. Maxwell, a Board of Superintendents (seven in number), in which Gustav Straubenmuller is committee on Evening Schools, Vacation Schools and Playgrounds; and 23 district superintendents. Miss Evangeline E. Whitney is the District Superintendent in charge of Vacation Schools, Playgrounds and Evening Recreation Centers.

The vacation schools opened on Monday, July 6th, and will continue daily, except Saturday and Sunday, for six weeks, from 9 A. M. to 12 M.

The vacation playgrounds opened on Monday, July 6th, and will continue daily, except Sunday, for eight weeks, from 1 to 5.30 P. M.

The evening roof playgrounds opened on Monday, July 6th, at 7.30 P. M., and

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will continue every evening, except Sunday, for eight weeks, from 7.30 until 10 P. M.

The evening recreation centers, open from October to June. Session nightly, except Sunday, from 7.30 until 10 P. M.

During the season of 1907, the Board of Education maintained 88 playgrounds and 11 roof playgrounds.

The aggregate attendance for Manhattan, The Bronx, and Brooklyn was 3,608,089, and the average attendance 75,937.

Five hundred and eleven teachers were employed. Classes were organized

Folk Dancing Apparatus Work.
Occupation Work — Raffia, Clay Modeling, Scrap Books.

4.00 to 4.45—Organized Games—Kindergarten, Gymnastics, Basketball.

4.45 to 5.15—Athletics—Good Citizens' Club.

5.15 to 5.30—Dismissal—Marching, Singing.

The children attend the library and game room in half-hour periods; boys and girls alternately.

Budget for 1908.....\$215,000

For the season of 1908 the number in operation is:

	Bronx.	Man.	Bklyn.	Queens.	Total.
Vacation Schools	1	14	11	1	27
Vacation Playgrounds	2	40	23	0	65
Playgrounds—for mothers and babies...	0	12	7	0	19
Evening Roof Gardens.....	0	9	2	0	11
Open Air Playgrounds.....	0	2	2	0	4
Kindergarten Centers	0	5	2	0	7
Evening Recreation Centers:					
Men and Boys.....	0	15	4	0	19
Women and Girls.....	0	7	3	0	10

in gymnastics, athletics, basketball and baseball, kindergarten and quiet games, and in some schools, basketry. A circulating library was also established in most of the schools.

Miss Evangeline E. Whitney, in her report of 1907, states that the "children play enthusiastically with and under the supervision of a teacher who knows what they need and desire. Special attention has been given to games in which large numbers can participate, and the satisfaction expressed proves that expensive gymnastic apparatus is not a playground necessity."

THE DAILY PROGRAM: 1 to 1.30—Assembly—Marching, Singing, Salute to the Flag, Talk by the Principal.

1.30 to 2.30—Organized Games—Kindergarten, Gymnastics.

2.30 to 3.00—Organized Free Play.

3.00 to 4.00—Drills—Gymnastics, Military.

THE PARK PLAYGROUNDS.

The Park Department of New York is composed of three commissioners—Henry Smith (Manhattan and Richmond), Michael J. Kennedy (Brooklyn and Queens), Joseph I. Berry (The Bronx).

The total park area is 6,979 acres, and is distributed as follows:

Manhattan	1,444	acres
Richmond	65	"
Bronx	4,112	"
Brooklyn	1,166	"
Queens	638	"

The playgrounds are 16 in number—11 in Manhattan and five in Brooklyn.

MANHATTAN.

The playgrounds under the Park Department of Manhattan (Henry Smith, Commissioner of Parks), are eleven (11) in number.

Seward Park, Hamilton Fish, Tomp-

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kins Square, St. Gabriels, Thomas Jefferson, DeWitt Clinton are all of the first rank in size and equipment, containing, in general, as at:

Seward Park—

Teachers—(Two men and two women.)

Equipment (Girls' Playground):

- 2 sets of large swings.
- 2 sets of baby swings.
- 17 swings.
- 20 swings.
- 2 sand boxes.
- 1 tennis court.
- 1 volley ball court.
- 1 croquet ground.
- 4 tetherball poles.
- 2 giant strides.
- 6 see-saws.
- 1 large double slide.
- 1 doll's house.
- 2 teeter ladders.

Space for games.

Equipment (Boys' Playground):

- Double gymnasium.
- Running track.
- 2 basketball courts.
- Tennis.
- 4 vaulting poles.
- Space for games.

While Corlears Hook, East Seventeenth, John Jay, Hudson and East River Parks, are either devoted in part only to the playground, or are not of the size and completeness of the others.

A unique feature in the small parks, under Commissioner Smith, of Manhattan, is the School Farm Garden, located in DeWitt Clinton Park, West Fifty-third Street, overlooking the Hudson River.

The work here has been developed by Mrs. Henry Parsons, and is now under her active supervision.

The Garden has been strikingly successful, and there is a strong desire on the part of many to extend it into other sections of the city. A sketch, outlining

the scope of the work will appear in a later issue of *THE PLAYGROUND*.

BROOKLYN.

The Playgrounds under the Department of Parks in Brooklyn (Michael J. Kennedy, Commissioner for Brooklyn and Queens), are five in number.

They are located: Bedford Avenue, under Williamsburg Bridge; Greenpoint Park, Manhattan and Driggs Avenues; New Lots Playground, Christopher and Sackman Streets; Bridge, Tillary and Jay Streets, McLaughlin Park.

The attendance varies from 200 daily at Greenpoint to 2,000 at New Lots and McLaughlin Park.

A complete equipment has been installed at the McLaughlin Park Playground in charge of three men and two women.

INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

1. *Outdoor Recreation League.*

The activities of this organization are historic and have already been outlined elsewhere. While the League is not actively maintaining playgrounds at present, it is by no means a dead society. Its meetings are held at 105 East Twenty-second Street, room No. 520. Its officers are: President, James K. Paulding; Treasurer, E. W. Ordway; Secretary, Joseph W. Price.

2. *Parks and Playgrounds Association.*

This organization is the result of a combination of the Metropolitan Parks Association and the Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds effected in June, 1908. Its office is in Room No. 524, at 105 East Twenty-second Street. Its officers are: President, Eugene A. Philbin; Vice-President, Cass Gilbert; Second Vice-President, Lillian D. Wald; Treasurer, James Renwick; Secretary, Howard Bradstreet.

During the summer of 1908 its activi-

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ties include the maintenance of (1) Playgrounds, (2) Summer Camp, (3) Baseball Centres.

Experience has shown generally that the children under 15 must have playgrounds in the immediate neighborhood of their homes. It is neither possible nor desirable for them to travel the distances necessary to reach city parks.

There are still vacant lots left in New York City, but more and more unavailable for play by reason of the fence, placed either for advertising purposes or to prevent nuisances.

In order to give children the benefit of these grounds, the Association has equipped a number of vacant lots with a small amount of apparatus and is maintaining them as playgrounds.

In connection with each, so far as possible, a local committee has been formed, which acts as an auxiliary of the main body.

1. Barrow Street (Pepe Bros.). For small children. Crowded Italian section. Director, Miss Henrietta Jessup.

2. West Sixty-third Street (City and Suburban Homes Co.). In a colored section. Apparatus and games for boys and girls under 16. Directors, Mr. E. D. Hamilton, Miss Harriet Merrill. Local committee, Rev. Dr. George W. Sims, Chairman; G. W. Baptist, W. H. Johnson, Chas. Hinton, Wm. Colvert.

3. Vernon Avenue, Long Island City (Mr. S. Rosensen). In crowded Italian section. For children under 15. Director, Miss Madeline M. Stevens. Local committee, Mr. John Andrews, Mr. B. F. Coughlin, Rev. Father Edwin F. Hannigan, Mr. Frank Sleicher, Mr. John L. Streever, Mr. J. H. Thiry.

4. Staten Island, New Brighton (Mr. S. McKay Smith). Only vacant lot in rapidly increasing section. Children under 15. Directors, Mr. John Maloy, Miss Anna Maloy. Local committee, Miss Elizabeth Curtis, Mrs. Mary Graham Young, Mrs. S. McKay Smith.

5. York Street, under Brooklyn Bridge, on Brooklyn side. Italian section. A unique ground by reason of its location and long existence. Established first in 1902 by Brooklyn Society of Parks and Playgrounds. Directors, Mr. R. M. Hall, Mr. Edward L. Fox, Miss Edith Jackson, Alma Richter.

6. Flushing Avenue, corner Wyckoff. Open section, largely German. Children under 16. Kindergarten and babies. Directors, Miss Ruth B. Howard, Miss Mary Andrews, Mr. Samuel Pickford.

7. Riverside Ground, Hudson Avenue, corner Little Street (Union Gas Company). Enclosed grassy field belonging to Union Gas Company. For children under 15. Kindergarten and babies. Directors, Miss Clara D. Hitchcock, Mr. G. H. Rees. Local committee, Mr. Thos. F. Murray, Chairman; Mr. Thos. McAllister, Mr. Arthur Dennis, Miss Mabel F. Doyen.

8. Clinton Street, corner Lorraine (Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea). Girls, small children. Kindergarten, baseball centre and free games. Director, Mr. Oliver Schoonmaker, Miss Margie Dohrman.

2. Summer Camp.

The purpose of this camp is to provide a place where school boys may go for a two-weeks' outing at the cost price of \$3 per week. Accommodations for seven. Location, Montvale, N. J. Advisor, Dr. Walter Truslow. Director, Mr. A. G. Smith.

3. Baseball Centres.

In certain lots large enough for the purpose, no apparatus was introduced, but their use confined exclusively to baseball and playground ball, under the supervision of expert ball players. Teams from the vicinity in two classes, under 17 and over 17, have been organized, a schedule made and an inter-playground league formed. In this way many new teams have been formed

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and many teams have been held together which otherwise would have disbanded.

These centres are located: One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Street, Manhattan; One Hundred and Forty-fifth Street, Manhattan; One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Street, Manhattan; Sixty-seventh Street, Manhattan; Saratoga Field, Brooklyn; Flushing Avenue, corner Wyckoff, Brooklyn; Clinton Street, corner Lorraine, Brooklyn; Bushwick Section, Brooklyn; Vernon Avenue, Long Island City; New Brighton, Staten Island. Open to teams under 17 to play for the Inter-playgrounds' Trophy and Championship in September. Season opens July 22d. Entries close August 1st.

The baseball squad or Floating Squadron is composed of R. B. Umberger, Yale; H. F. Hovey, Rutgers; Oliver Schoonmaker, Harvard; Charles A. Noone, Dartmouth. Advisor, Mr. Walter F. Carter. The grounds are open from 9 to 12 and 2 to 5 daily, except Sunday. Chairman of Committee on Organization, Seth Thayer Stewart. General Supervisor, Harriet L. Booth.

3. *Many other organizations*, especially settlements and churches, conduct playgrounds in connection with their immediate work—among them, Friendly House, Speyer School, Union Settlement, Educational Alliance, Mothers' Club, West Brighton.

SETH THAYER STEWART.

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND EDITOR OF "PLAYGROUND."

DR. STEWART'S interest in the playground movement dates from the pioneer days when in 1894 he recommended a system of playgrounds to the Brooklyn Principals' Association, of which he was then president, but to which suggestion there was no response at that time.

When in 1898 the Board of Education

took up the Vacation Schools and Playgrounds, Dr. Stewart was made chairman of a committee of three to organize the work. The motion was proposed in June. On July 13th the grounds were opened.

In 1899 he started the evening recreation centers, later suggesting the use of the roof gardens in the schools.

Through him Dr. Henry S. Curtis was selected as Supervisor of Child Study on the playgrounds of New York City, and upon his advice Dr. Curtis accepted the position of supervisor of playgrounds in Washington, with the suggestion that later a National Playground Association be organized.

In April, 1906, the Washington Association held its National Conference, when the present Playground Association of America was formed, with Dr. Gulick as President, Dr. Stewart as Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Curtis as Secretary.

Through the efforts of Dr. Stewart, the funds were secured for THE PLAYGROUND, of which journal he is editor.

Dr. Stewart is now engaged in organizing local work through the Parks and Playgrounds Association, with the co-operation of a Council of One Hundred, of which Miss Pauline Robinson is Secretary, whose membership will be announced, and whose work will begin in the fall.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE.

NEW YORK CITY.

IN November, 1903, a number of gentlemen connected with the public schools of New York City and several business and professional men of the city organized a Public Schools Athletic League for the school boys of New York City. The League was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on November 27th. The charter members were:

—NEW YORK PLAYGROUNDS



SETH THAYER STEWART.

George W. Wingate,
William H. Maxwell,
Luther H. Gulick,
Henry A. Rogers,
James E. Sullivan,
C. Ward Crampton, M.D.

George T. Hepbron,
Gustave Straubenmüller,
Charles B. Stover,
Gustavus T. Kirby,
John F. Condon,
Rev. W. S. Rainsford,

Rev. M. J. Lavelle,
Dr. John H. Finley,
George Albert Wingate,
Dr. John T. Buchanan,
Edward Lauterbach.

NEW YORK PLAYGROUNDS—

The League was not officially under the Board of Education to the extent that funds should be appropriated for its support, although it was organized directly for school boys. It was, however, closely connected with the school work by being controlled by public school officials and was still more closely related by the requirement that only those boys should take part in the activities of the League who were doing satisfactory school work.

Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Director of Physical Training, was elected Secretary of the League, and General George W. Wingate, a member of the Board of Education, was made President. City Superintendent of Schools William H. Maxwell and President of the Board of Education Henry A. Rogers were members of the Board of Directors. Mr. James E. Sullivan, President of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, who was also a director, was appointed Chairman of the Games Committee.

The work of the League, since its organization, has been carried on after school hours and on Saturdays. Its aim has been to foster and control clean and vigorous athletic sports of all kinds. Track and field games were first taken up. Then Basketball, Baseball, Soccer Football, Cross Country Running, Swimming, Skating, Tennis, etc., were added. No school took part in any of the activities of the League unless the principal of the school so desired. In short, the entire work of the League has been of a voluntary character.

In order to bring the activities of the League more closely to the great mass of school boys, branch leagues were organized throughout the city, one for each District Superintendent's territory. These organizations were formed with the consent and co-operation of the District Superintendents and their princi-

pals. Each branch organization is as definite in its formation as the central league, having its directors, officers and various committees. There are twenty-five such branch leagues in Greater New York.

Within each branch league the various schools have formed athletic associations. For the elementary schools, there are the school associations made up of the boys of the different schools the district league consisting of representatives from the schools within its territory and other persons who were interested in the physical welfare of the boys, and the central league consists of representatives from the different district leagues and others who desired to support the movement for the whole city.

For the high schools the organization is somewhat different. Within each high school there is an athletic association, then the representatives of the different high schools unite in the city organization, there being no necessity of branch leagues for the high schools.

The management of the games and contests for the elementary school boys is in the hands of the Elementary School Games Committee, made up of one representative from each district league. The High School Games Committee, consisting of one representative from each high school, manages the work for the high school boys. These two committees are responsible to the Central Games Committee of the P. S. A. L., of which Mr. Sullivan is Chairman.

The League, in the main, is supported by funds secured through contribution, but as the usefulness of this organization has been demonstrated and its work recognized as an important part of the school activities, the Board of Education has gradually assumed more and more of the expense of maintenance.

The position of Inspector of the Pub-

—NEW YORK PLAYGROUNDS

lic Schools Athletics was created by the Board of Education in April, 1906. In the fall of 1907 the positions of Assistant Inspectors were created.

Through the efforts of the League the city authorities in 1905 appropriated a sum of \$500,000 for athletic fields for the school boys. This money was turned over to the Board of Education for the purchase and equipment of the necessary fields. The expense of maintaining these fields is borne by the Board of Education.

In 1905 a Girls' Branch of the P. S. A. L. was organized, whose work has been carried on along lines similar to those of the Boys' Department, except that folk dances and gymnastic games have been substituted for the track and field athletics used for the boys. The position of Assistant Inspector of Athletics for Girls has been created by the Board of Education.

BRONX.

While the Bronx has no playgrounds in the proper sense of the word, there are many recreation features in its parks under Commissioner Joseph I. Berry.

In Crotona Park, McComb's Dam Park, Pelham Bay Park, are running tracks, gymnasiums, shower baths.

In Van Cortlandt Park are 87 acres for golf links, in Pelham Bay Park, 90 acres, with 500 lockers, for which a fee of \$5 each is charged, which meets the expense of maintenance.

In nine of the parks is a total of 34 ball diamonds and 70 tennis courts.

At Pelham Bay are 518 free bath houses, while yacht clubs secure anchorage and are charged yearly rental. There are also 300 free camp sites, whose popularity is evidenced by the fact that 2,000 applications are on file for their use.

THE FARM GARDEN.

THE Farm Garden is a work allied to the playground movement in some features.

In New York City it has centered around the activity in DeWitt Clinton Park, under Mrs. Henry Parsons, and has resulted in the foundation of The International Children's School Farm League, which states as among its proposed activities, "to arouse interest in the subject of children's gardens; to assist in starting gardens in connection with schools; to work for their establishment in suitable parks in whose neighborhood are many children."

Its officers are: President, Mrs. Henry Parsons; First Vice-President, Miss Emily Lamb Tuckerman; Second Vice-President and Treasurer, Mrs. Howard Van Sinderen; Third Vice-President, Miss Emily Van Amringe; Secretary, Lecturer and Practical Advisor, Henry Griscom Parsons. Its headquarters are at 29 West Fifty-sixth Street.

RECREATION PIERS.

The recreation piers are under the Dock Department—Allan N. Spooner, Commissioner. The first one was authorized in 1892.

In Manhattan there are nine, located as follows: On the North River—Albany Street, Barrow Street, Fiftieth Street, 129th Street. On East River—Market Street, Third Street, Twenty-fourth Street, 112th Street. Brooklyn—North Second Street and Metropolitan Avenue.

During the day, Kindergarten School privileges are afforded to the Board of Education. At night, on each pier, a public band concert is given from 8 to 10.30.

They are open from 7 A. M. to 11 P. M., for 18 weeks, beginning May 23d. Cost for season of 1907..... \$153,692.49
Cost of erecting structures... 790,000.00
Estimated attendance for sea-

son 4,000,000

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etc.

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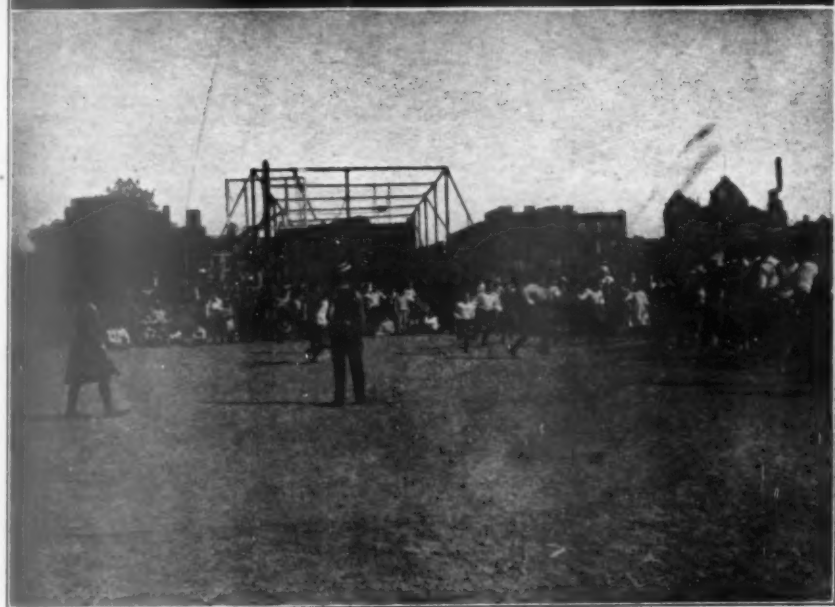
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